

**Application No. 09/890,804**  
**Art Unit 1731**  
**February 23, 2004**  
**Reply to Office Action of October 22, 2003**

**REMARKS**

On May 17, 2004, an Office Communication was issued which indicated that the Reply filed on February 23, 2004, is not fully responsive to the prior Office Action because clarification of regarding the pending claims is required.

Specifically, page 6 of 11 of the Reply of February 23, 2004, indicated that claims 11-20 have been canceled, but further indicates that claims 14-18 are pending.

Applicants respectfully clarify that claims 3, 6-9 and 11-20 have been canceled, and claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 10 and 21-25 are pending in the above-identified application.

A corrected copy of the Reply Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 filed on February 23, 2004, is attached hereto. The Examiner is respectfully requested to enter the Reply.

**Conclusion**

A full and complete response has been made to all issues as cited in the Office Action. Applicants have taken substantial steps in efforts to advance prosecution of the present application. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance issue for the present case.


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Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Eugene T. Perez (Reg. No. 48,501) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By   
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